

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Tanimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,885,469); claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Tanimoto in view of Scheuneman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,697,233); and claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Tanimoto in view of Takeda (U.S. Patent No. 6,297,117). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Tanimoto disclosed processing document data except in locations where an error has occurred, as cited in col. 1, lines 36-41 of Tanimoto. However, as agreed during the personal interview, Tanimoto did not disclose continued processing of a document when an error occurred. Instead, Tanimoto disclosed selectively disabling individual functions of the image processing device without disabling other functions that are working properly. Tanimoto disclosed:

"It is thus an object of the present invention to provide an image processing device that monitors its own functions, reports detected errors to an external device such as LAN client, and allows the external device **to selectively disable individual functions of the image processing device without disabling other functions that are working properly.**

In order to accomplish this object, according to a first aspect of the present invention, an image processing device includes a detecting mechanism that detects errors in the functions performed by the device, a transmission unit that transmits the detection results of the detecting mechanism to a second device, and **a disabling mechanism that selectively disables one or more of the functions of the image processing device based on instructions given by the second device.**" (Emphasis added.)

(Tanimoto, C1/L36-49) As disclosed in the quoted portion above, Tanimoto taught to selectively disable individual functions of the image processing device. Thus, when functions of the image processing device that detected an error was disabled, the disabled device cannot further process other portions of the document that were without error. Thus, Tanimoto did not disclose or suggest continuing to process a document except in locations concerning the error, as recited in claims 1, 4 and 7. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, claims 5 and 6

depend from claim 4 and claims 8-13 depend from claim 7. Thus, Tanimoto did not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1-13.

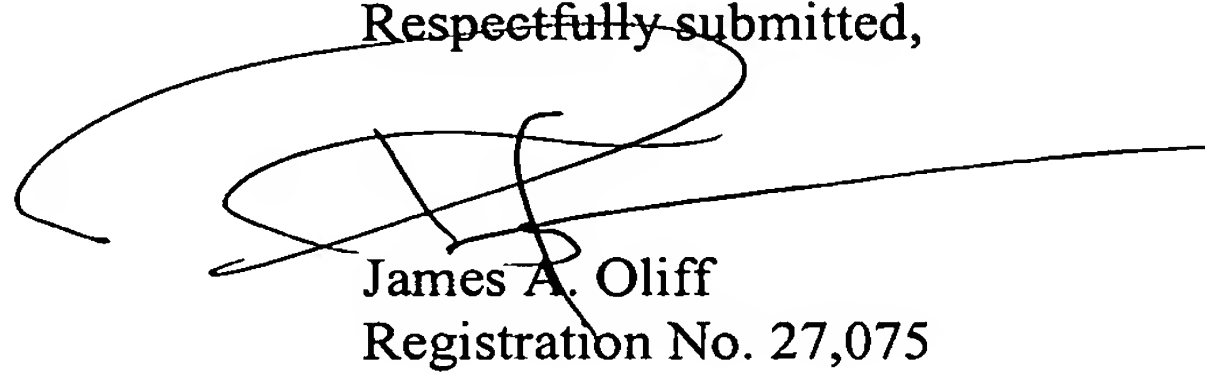
Scheuneman and Takeda did not disclose the above-discussed subject matter missing from Tanimoto. Thus, Tanimoto, Scheuneman and Takeda individually or in combination would not have rendered obvious the subject matter recited in claims 1, 4 and 7.

In view of the above, Tanimoto did not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1-10 and 12, Tanimoto and Scheuneman individually or in combination would not have rendered obvious the subject matter recited in claim 11 and Tanimoto and Takeda individually or in combination would not have rendered obvious the subject matter recited in claim 13. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), and claims 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "James A. Oliff", written over the typed name and registration number.

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Date: April 19, 2006

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